



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - February 11, 2003

- ***In the West***, mild, dry weather prevails, although showers associated with an approaching storm system are overspreading the ***southern Pacific Coast***. ***Southern California*** and the ***Southwest*** are experiencing a second consecutive year of significant precipitation deficits.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, dry weather favors overwintering wheat, which retains a shallow protective snow cover in most areas.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow showers accompany another surge of bitterly cold air, maintaining stress on ***Midwestern*** livestock.
- ***In the South***, mild, dry weather favors a return to fieldwork, following recent beneficial precipitation.

Outlook: For the remainder of today through mid-week, a strong cold front will bring snow showers and bitterly cold weather to the ***Great Lakes, Northeastern, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Meanwhile, much-needed rain and mountain snow will overspread the ***Southwest***, as a strong Pacific storm moves onshore. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather will prevail for much of the week across the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, Plains, and Southeast***. Toward week's end, however, rain and snow showers will develop on the ***southern Plains*** and begin to spread eastward. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 16-20 calls for cold weather to linger in the ***Northeast***. However, near-normal temperatures are forecast across most of the remainder of the U.S. Mostly dry weather is expected from the ***northern Plains to New England***, while above-normal precipitation is likely from ***southern California to the southern Atlantic region***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)